



Adair County News

October 2010

**Adair County
USDA Service Center**

Adair County FSA
2410 S Franklin
Kirksville, MO 63501
660-665-3274 (phone)
660-665-0266 (fax)
www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

Hours
Monday - Friday
7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.

County Committee
David Kittle
Burrel Harris
Frank Collop
Charlene Fisher

County Committee
meets 1st Wednesday of
each month

Staff
Program Techs
Jennifer Brummit
Lisa Denton
Barb Snyder
Dana Thompson

Co Executive Director
Philip Ayers

Farm Loan Manager
Curt Corbett

2010 DCP Final Payments

Final DCP payments for 2010 participants will be issued sometime after October 15, 2010. Producers who received an advance payment will be paid the balance they are due. Those who did not take an advance will be receiving their full payment amount. These payments will be deposited directly into personal bank accounts. If there are any unearned payments, Commodity Credit Corporation will automatically subtract those amounts from the final Direct and Counter-cyclical Program payments you are about to receive.

FSA Conservation Loan Program

The Farm Service Agency makes and guarantees conservation loans on farms and ranches to help conserve our natural resources. The Conservation Loan (CL) Program provides farmers with the credit necessary to implement conservation measures on their land. The direct CLs loan limit is up to \$300,000 and guaranteed CLs up to \$1,112,000 (amount adjusted for inflation), may be available by applying with lenders working with FSA to obtain a guarantee. Applicants will work with Natural Resources and Conservation Service (NRCS) Staff to develop a conservation plan. Conservation practices must be approved by NRCS before FSA can provide financing. Examples of conservation practices include installation of conservation structures; establishment of forest cover; installation of water conservation measures; establishment or improvement of permanent pastures; transitioning to organic production; manure management, including manure digestion systems; etc.

Emergency Conservation Program (ECP)

Adair County FSA has been approved for an Emergency Conservation Program Flood (ECPF) to assist producers with flood damage. Approved practices are debris removal (EC1), grading and shaping (EC2), and structure repair (EC4). Cost share is established at 75% of the actual not to exceed an amount set by the County Committee. Sign-up is ongoing and will end November 26, 2010. We encourage all producers affected to sign up even though there are no funds allocated to Adair County for this disaster at this time.



Farm Storage Facility Loan Program

The Farm Storage Facility Loan (FSFL) program allows producers of eligible commodities to obtain low-interest financing to build or upgrade farm storage and handling facilities. Participants are required to provide a down payment of 15 percent, with CCC providing a loan for the remaining 85 percent of the net cost of the eligible storage facility and permanent drying and handling equipment. Applications for FSFL must be submitted to the FSA county office that maintains the farm's records. An FSFL must be approved before any site preparation or construction can begin. Eligible commodities for the FSFL program include: corn, grain sorghum, rice, soybeans, oats, peanuts, wheat, barley, minor oilseeds, pulse crops - lentils, small chickpeas and dry peas, hay, renewable biomass, fruits (including nuts) and vegetables.

For more information about FSFL please visit your FSA county office or www.fsa.usda.gov.

County Committee Elections

Producers in Liberty, Morrow, Ninevah, and Polk Townships **watch** your mailbox for your official county office committee election ballot starting early next month. Ballots will be mailed to all eligible voters starting on November 5, 2010. If, for some reason, you don't receive a ballot, feel free to notify the county FSA office. Completed and signed ballots will be due back in the county office by the close of business on December 6, 2010.

Paper Check Conversion – Over the Counter (PCC – OTC)

Over the next year, FSA/CCC is moving toward an electronic method for processing producers' checks. This will allow FSA/CCC to process collections faster. When producers present checks, either in person or through the mail, the checks will be converted into an Electronic Funds Transfer (EFT). The funds will be debited from the producer's account, usually within 24 hours of receipt. Please see the U.S. Department of Treasury legal notices posted in the Service Center or visit the following U.S. Department of Treasury Internet site for detailed information:

<https://www.pccotc.gov/pccotc/pcc/usingpcc/Legal%20Notices/legalnotices.htm>

Note: FSA/CCC will begin this process in the coming months.

What is PCC - OTC?

PCC – OTC is a process for converting paper checks presented to FSA into electronic debits to the producer’s bank account. It presents many benefits, such as reducing lost/misplaced checks and paper handling. This improves customer relations, speeds the check clearing process, and reduces the potential for human error.

How will my checks be handled?

If the check is presented in person, the check will be scanned into the system, voided, and stamped with the words, “Electronically Processed” or “Electronically Presented” and the voided check will be returned to the customer. If the check is mailed to FSA, the check will be scanned into the system and voided. The customer will not receive the check back from FSA. FSA will hold checks for up to 14 calendar days to ensure that the item was successfully processed, and then FSA will shred the check.

How quickly will funds be transferred from my account?

The transfer of funds from your account could occur within 24 hours. Therefore, you should be sure that you have sufficient funds in your account to process the transaction. If you do **not** have sufficient funds, we may initiate the transaction again.

How will this transaction appear on my account statement?

The transfer of funds will be reflected on your account statement. The transaction may be recorded in a different place on your statement than where your checks normally appear, such as under “other withdrawals” or “other transactions”.

What are my rights if there is a problem with the transaction?

You have protections under Federal law for an unauthorized electronic fund transfer from your account. You should contact your financial institution immediately if you believe that the transaction reported on your account statement was not properly authorized or is otherwise incorrect.

Acresage Spot Check Determinations and Notification

Each year the Farm Service Agency completes spot checks of acresage reports. Acresage reports are an integral part of farm program participation. Acresage spot checks are completed to ensure accurate acresage reports are used in farm program computations. FSA will conduct spot checks on a selected number of farms in each state. All acresage determinations will be completed using the FSA Geographic Information System official acresages. After farms are spot checked, a Notice of Determined Acresage will be sent to the

farm operator. Producer notifications will be issued by FSA as spot checks are completed. Questions concerning determined acres should be directed to your local FSA office for further explanation.

Marketing Assistance Loans

A Marketing Assistance Loan (MAL) is available for producers who share in the risk of producing the crop. To be eligible, a producer must maintain continual beneficial interest in the crop from harvest through the earlier of the date the loan is repaid or CCC takes title to the commodity. Once beneficial interest in a commodity is lost, the commodity is ineligible for loan — even if the producer regains beneficial interest. Commodity loan eligibility also requires compliance with conservation and wetland protection requirements; beneficial interest requirements, acreage reporting and ensuring that the commodity meets Commodity Credit Corporation minimum grade and quality standards. The quality of the commodity in farm storage must be maintained throughout the term of the loan. Producers do not have to participate in the Direct and Counter-Cyclical and/or ACRE Programs to be eligible for commodity loans. Violating provisions of a marketing assistance loan may result in liquidated damages, calling the loan and denial of future farm-stored loans.

Farm Loan Programs

The Farm Service Agency is committed to providing family farmers with loans to meet their farm credit needs. If you are having trouble getting the credit you need for your farm, or regularly borrow from FSA, direct and guaranteed loans are currently available. Ask your lender about an FSA loan guarantee if you’ve had a setback and your lender is reluctant to extend or renew your loan. Farm ownership loans or farm operating loans may be obtained as direct loans for a maximum of up to \$300,000. Guaranteed loans can reach a maximum indebtedness of \$1,112,000. Producers are encouraged to apply early so that a loan can be processed and funded in a timely manner. To find out more about FSA loan programs, contact the county office staff.



Rural Youth Loans

The Farm Service Agency makes loans to rural youths to establish and operate income-producing projects in connection with 4-H clubs, FFA and other agricultural groups. Projects must be planned and operated with the help of the organization advisor, produce sufficient income to repay the loan and provide the youth with practical business and educational experience. The maximum loan amount is \$5000.

Youth Loan Eligibility Requirements:

- Be a citizen of the United States (which includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam, American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands) or a legal resident alien
- Be 10 years to 20 years of age
- Comply with FSA's general eligibility requirements
- Reside in a rural area, city or town with a population of 50,000 or fewer people
- Be unable to get a loan from other sources
- Conduct a modest income-producing project in a supervised program of work as outlined above
- Demonstrate capability of planning, managing and operating the project under guidance and assistance from a project advisor. The project supervisor must recommend the project and the loan, along with providing adequate supervision.

Stop by the county office for help preparing and processing the application forms.

Beginning and Limited Resource Farmers

FSA assists beginning farmers and members of socially disadvantaged groups to finance agricultural enterprises. Under these designated farm loan programs, FSA can provide financing to eligible applicants through either direct or guaranteed loans. FSA defines a beginning farmer as a person who:

- Has operated a farm for not more than 10 years
- Will materially and substantially participate in the operation of the farm
- Agrees to participate in a loan assessment, borrower training and financial management program sponsored by FSA
- Does not own a farm in excess of 30 percent of the county's median size.

Additional program information, loan applications, and other materials are available at your local USDA Service Center. You may also visit www.fsa.usda.gov

Loans for the Socially Disadvantaged

FSA has a number of loan programs available to assist applicants to begin or continue in agriculture production. Loans are available for operating type loans and/or purchase or improve farms or ranches. While all qualified producers are eligible to apply for these loan programs, the FSA has provided priority funding for members of Socially Disadvantaged groups. A socially disadvantaged appli-

cant is one of a group whose members have been subjected to racial, ethnic or gender prejudice because of his or her identity as members of the group without regard to his or her individual qualities. For purposes of this program, socially disadvantaged groups are women, African Americans, American Indians, Alaskan Natives, Hispanics, Asian Americans, and Pacific Islanders. FSA loans are only available to applicants who meet all the eligibility requirements and are unable to obtain the needed credit elsewhere.

Electronic Services Available

If a producer has Internet access, program participants can access many services from home 24 hours a day, seven days a week. To participate in these services, you must meet all program eligibility requirements. Online services have stringent security measures to protect your private information. To utilize electronic services a producer needs an active USDA eAuthentication Level 2 account, which requires an e-mail address and filling out an online registration form at <http://www.eauth.egov.usda.gov/> followed by a visit to the county office for identity verification. If you would like assistance establishing your account, just contact your local USDA Service Center.

NRCS CRP Information

The Natural Resources Conservation Service will be sending out a planning packet to those participants who have recently been accepted into the Conservation Reserve Program. Your planning packet will include soil testing guidance, vegetation establishment guidance, and a general schedule of preparation.

Rural Development REAP Program

The Renewable Energy for America Program (REAP) is a grant program for renewable energy and energy efficiency grants to ag-producers or rural small businesses.

The project must be for the purchase of a renewable energy system or to make energy efficiency improvements and must be commercially available. Satisfactory sources of revenue in an amount sufficient to provide for the operation, maintenance, and debt service of the project must be available for the life of the project.

The amount of grant funds that will be made available to an eligible project will not exceed 25 percent of total eligible project costs. The applicant is responsible for and must secure the remainder of the 75% of the total eligible project costs.





In the 2010 fiscal year, the Rural Development Office that serves Northeast Missouri received funding in the amount of \$3,206,070. The types of projects funded included 8 energy efficiency grain dryer projects, 2 renewable energy solar projects, 1 wind turbine project, 1 energy efficiency geothermal heating/cooling system, and 1 anaerobic manure digester for a cattle feedlot.

We anticipate funding for this program during the next fiscal year and are willing to take applications at any time. The official Notice of Funding Availability (NOFA) will most likely not be published until early summer 2011.

If you would like further information, please contact the Kirksville Rural Development Office and speak with Glenda or Leann at 660-665-3274, Ext. 4.

Dates to Remember	
October 11	Columbus Day – FSA offices closed
November 5	County committee ballots mailed to voters
November 11	Veterans Day – FSA offices closed
November 20	NAP application sales closing date for apples, apricots, blueberries, grapes, nectarines, peaches and pears

Selected Interest Rates for October 2010	
90-Day Treasury Bill	0.125%
Farm Operating Loans — Direct	2.125%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct	4.375%
Limited Resource	5.00%
Farm Ownership Loans — Direct Down Payment, Beginning Farmer or Rancher	1.50%
Emergency Loans	2.375%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 7-yr. term	2.125%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 10-yr. term	2.625%
Farm Storage Facility Loans 12-yr. term	2.875%
Commodity Loans 1996-Present	1.250%

Visit our website at: www.fsa.usda.gov/mo

The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, and where applicable, sex, marital status, familial status, parental status, religion, sexual orientation, genetic information, political beliefs, reprisal, or because all or part of an individual's income is derived from any public assistance program. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotope, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD). To file a complaint of discrimination, write to USDA, Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Civil Rights, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Stop 9410, Washington, DC 20250-9410, or call toll-free at (866) 632-9992 (English) or (800) 877-8339 (TDD) or (866) 377-8642 (English Federal-relay) or (800) 845-6136 (Spanish Federal-relay). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.